

Mid Maine Sustainability Coalition
Transportation Sub-Committee Meeting
KVCAP
February 11, 2009

Participants: Jim Wood, Rosemary Winslow, Peter Garrett, Chris Huck, Susan McKenzie, Ann Beverage, Bill Basford

Following introductions, the group reviewed the Implementation Objective Guide that will be used as a framework for future discussions and action plans.

The group reviewed the initiatives under Objective II Improve Transportation Efficiency and Choices;

Project 1 –Develop Infrastructure to encourage/Enable Bicycle and Pedestrian Alternatives

General Discussion

1. Initiatives to encourage walking.
Peter discussed a DOT funded project to review road maps to determine which roadways are pedestrian friendly. He noted that Brunswick has a local template that could be used by other communities. Committees are to be developed for each town.
2. Rosemary provided information on the Federal stimulus package related to transportation. Maine has several “project ready” proposals under review. The State legislature will be prioritizing State projects.

Specific Plan Items.

1. Walking Resources (Walk, Walk, Walk)

There is a significant amount of material available detailing existing trails and walkways. Providers and local government entities are encouraged to provide links on their websites to the Kennebec Trails Maps to educate people about existing resources. There are several well designed and maintained walking trails that are available for use. A question was raised regarding which trails are bicycle friendly. Peter will consider including information on future trail maps regarding bicycle access.

The group encouraged local ordinances that would require allowances for bike and pedestrian lanes are road projects are developed.

Questions were presented regarding currently available public walkways and their availability during the winter months due to snow and ice accumulation. A recommendation was made to invite Mark turner to a future meeting to talking about challenges in clearing and maintaining sidewalks.

2. Get Bike Racks Downtown

The group discussed the current availability of bike racks in the downtown area. The group recommends accessing the possibility of installing unique back racks at several locations downtown to encourage bike travel. Possible sites include Jorgennsen's, Cancun and the Farmer's Market. Peter made reference to very unique bike racks he had seen and will try to get more detailed information.

The question also arose regarding the availability of bike racks at the Elm Plaza Shopping Center.

3. Get Bike Paths

Chris referenced a plan by KVCOG to include bike paths in model plans for communities to consider when revising their development plans.

4. Create Policies that Require Development of Pedestrian Options.

KVCAP is developing model ordinances that include provisions for pedestrian and bicycle access.

5. More Benches Throughout Our Communities.

The group recommends that community development plans include unique ideas for bike racks and benches that would add a unique character to their area and encourage use.

6. Educate People About Sharing the Roads

Refer to Education Committee. Possible solutions include developing an information sheet that can be distributed with drivers license renewal packages. Other information may be available through bicycle coalition.

Sue will contact bicycle coalition to see what information is available. Rosemary will research options of distributing information through State sources. A suggestion was made to involve Shannon Haines in the local discussions on this issue.

7. Provide Public Bathrooms

The group recommends consideration of this during any Downtown renovations to encourage use of alternative modes to get into the city. Bike racks and benches should be available in the same area as public bathrooms.

8. Develop Kennebec Messalonskee Trail to Support Community Sustainability.

Peter is already working on this. Plans include coordinating with area schools to promote awareness and encourage student physical activity.

The group will plan to meet monthly. Next meeting date TBA. Next discussion – Public Transit